

Columbus Department of Public Utilities to Begin Major Streetlight Circuit Replacement Program

Scheduled for vote at tonight's Columbus City Council meeting is legislation for \$142,071 to contract with the U.S. Utility Contractor Company to begin the first phase of a planned \$1 million reinvestment in the city's streetlight infrastructure.

"Our residents value the reliability of their streetlights because they know it can help enhance the safety of their neighborhoods," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman.

This first contract will authorize rehabilitation and/or replacement of various components within two streetlighting circuits on the city's east side, bounded by Livingston Avenue, Mooberry Street, 18th Street and Alum Creek Drive. The work will improve streetlight reliability and prevent outages, which can occur more frequently on aged circuits. Components to be replaced include wires, poles, lights, brackets and standoff arms.

"We are happy to move this contract forward to provide the needed reinvestment in these Columbus neighborhoods and I look forward to supporting this effort in other areas in the future," said Public Utilities Chairperson Eileen Y. Paley.

Work is expected to begin in late summer on these first two circuits, which are part of the first phase of what is planned to be three phases citywide. The program includes the upgrading of 34 circuits, which will improve the reliability of a total of 6,473 city streetlights. A map of the circuits planned to be rehabilitated or replaced over the next several months under this program is available. Funding is being provided through special income tax money collected through the kilowatt tax on electricity customer bills.

To report a streetlight in need of repair, please call 311, 645-3111 or the Power Distribution Maintenance 24-hour line directly at 645-7627.